

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: [ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarnng.list.pao@mail.mil)

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

[www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard](https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard)

[www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard](https://www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard)

[https://twitter.com/SD\\_Guard](https://twitter.com/SD_Guard)



July 21, 2015

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Employers watch their citizen-Soldier in training**

By Staff Sgt. Michael Beck  
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. – Ten employers of South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers traveled to Camp Ripley to see firsthand what it's like to be a Soldier during annual training as a part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Bosslift," July 15-16.

"The intent of the Bosslift program is to inform service member's civilian supervisors of what their employees are doing when they go away for annual training," said Ron Mielke, state chair for SD-ESGR.

Nominated for the trip by their military employees, the employers toured Camp Ripley and observed a water crossing mission where the 200th Engineer Company transported tactical vehicles across a lake using their float bridges.

The employers were able to visit with their Soldier to learn more about their specific role in the operation.

"You think you have an idea of what their military job looks like," said Lorn Mohr, assistant superintendent of STAR Academy in Custer, S.D. "You see it, how large the exercise is, and get a real idea of how complex jobs are."

Employers witnessed 650 Soldiers from various SDARNG units as well as from Minnesota and Iowa work together.

"It is very interesting seeing how many moving parts go into an operation like this," said Troy Brailer, technical support supervisor for Daktronics, in Brookings, S.D. "It's amazing how quickly they do it with the coordination involved."

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, was in attendance and spoke one-on-one with many of the employers.

"I appreciate your willingness to employ members of the Guard," said Reisch. "Especially since 2001, where we have been active with mobilizations."

For the first time in many years, Darin Young, warden at the S.D. State Penitentiary, does not have an employee deployed.

"I have nine employees here in Camp Ripley for annual training," said Young. "We employ about 40 members in the correctional facilities I oversee and this is the first time in many years that none of them are deployed."

-more-

Working with employees who are called to serve overseas is a process Dale Jans, vice president of Jans Corporation, has experienced with several Soldiers.

“I currently employ three Soldiers,” said Jans, who employs a total of 50 personnel. “In the past, I had five Soldiers working for me, all of whom deployed simultaneously, and I still employ three.”

One of Jan’s employees, Maj. Dave Hoines with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, has deployed three times.

“We have a plan in place for someone to fill in, but his absence is noticed,” said Jans. “Dave Hoines does a great job for us and I appreciate what he does as a Soldier to protect our safety and freedom.”

-30-

High-resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard)



**150716-Z-BB320-323:** U.S. Army Spc. Marcus Howard, a medic with the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, talks with his civilian employer, Megan Merkel, resource nurse for Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown, S.D., during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift at a field training exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 16, 2015. The ESGR visit allows civilian employers to experience the military life lead by their Soldier-employees. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck/Released)



**150716-Z-BB320-338:** Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lonny Hofer, state command chief warrant officer for the South Dakota Army National Guard, discusses a bridging exercise being conducted by multiple SDARNG units with Abby Javurek-Humig, director of the division of assessment and accountability for South Dakota’s Department of Education during a field exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 16, 2015. Employers traveled to the field exercise as part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift to see their Soldier-employees performing their military duties. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck/Released)



**150716-Z-BB320-041:** A Soldier fires a .50 caliber machine gun from an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier across a river during a culminating training event observed by civilian employers of South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 16, 2015. The employers were visiting as part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift where employers were able to observe their Soldier-employees in action during a field exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck/Released)



**150716-Z-BB320-192:** Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 200th Engineer Company ferry an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier and an M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle across a river during a culminating training event observed by civilian employers of SDARNG Soldiers at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 16, 2015. The employers were visiting as part of an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift where employers were able to observe their Soldier-employees in action during a field exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck/Released)

For more information, please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil).